

9th Annual
Standing Stone State Park's

SPRING
NATURALIST



April 13 & 14, 2012

Standing Stone State Park
1674 Standing Stone Hwy.
Hilham, TN 38568
931-823-6347



Spring weather is always unpredictable. Please check the local weather forecast before you leave home and prepare to join us rain or shine for two days of fun and learning about the natural and cultural beauties of Standing Stone State Park. Other items to consider for an enjoyable day/night at the park: comfortable, but sturdy shoes/boots, comfortable clothes, sunscreen, flashlight, jacket, water to carry with you, field guides, binoculars, food, and snacks.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, April 13th

- 5:15 P.M.** **Registration / Welcome:** Registration is open all evening at the Recreational Hall. Food vendor selling snacks and drinks will be on site.
- 5:30 P.M.** **SNAKES ALIVE! Snakes of Tennessee:** Uncover the secrets behind some of Tennessee's most misunderstood creatures and find out what makes snakes super! Join Ray Jordan, Retired Professor of Herpetology from Tennessee Technological University, for a live, first-hand look at some of Tennessee's most exceptional creatures. *Indoors at the Park Recreational Hall*
- 6:30 P.M.** **Tennessee State Natural Areas 101:** Join Robin Wooten, Program Manager for Tennessee State Natural Areas, to learn about Tennessee's Natural Area Program and the 82 state designated natural areas that represent Tennessee's vast and varied beauty. Descriptions & photographs will be shared to describe the many unique natural areas of Tennessee. *Indoors at the Park Recreational Hall*
- 7:30 P.M.** **LIVE! Birds of Prey:** Be sure to come early for this workshop! This LIVE presentation on birds of prey is hosted by David Haggard, Tennessee State Parks' West Tennessee Regional Interpretive Specialist and is sure to fill up fast. David will showcase an American Bald Eagle and various birds of prey and demonstrate each bird's unique abilities. David will also discuss birds of prey adaptations, predator/prey relationships, specific characteristics, natural histories, and the personal histories of each bird. *Indoors at the Park Recreational Hall*
- 8:30 P.M.** **Nighttime Herpetology Survey:** Nighttime is the right time to explore the world of reptiles and amphibians! Join Mr. Robert Brewer, Biology Associate Professor at Cleveland State Community College, on a search for reptiles and amphibians in the Park. Carpooling is recommended as we travel with Robert over park back roads on nighttime search! *Meet at the Park Recreational Hall.*

Saturday, April 14th

- 6:30 A.M.** **Registration:** Registration and information booth is open all day at the Recreational Hall. For your convenience, the Friends of Standing Stone State Park and the park's marble club, Tennessee Knucklers, will be on site selling food, drinks, and snacks to benefit several youth marble players' trip to the National Marbles Tournament in Wildwood, New Jersey in June.
- 7:00 A.M.** **Early Birding:** Spring is a great time to see and hear birds, as they are in full song and the leaves are not yet fully out on the trees. Join Richard Connors, biologist for the All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory (ATBI) project of TN State Parks and Natural Areas, on an early morning walk through the park to look and listen for early arriving migrant and resident birds. If anyone is interested in doing birding in the park later in the morning, Richard will offer an extension to the early bird hike from 9:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M. *Meet at the Park Recreational Hall.*
- 8:30 A.M.** **Wildflower & Plant Ecology Hike along Mill Creek Slopes:** Roger McCoy with the Tennessee Natural Heritage Program will lead us on a 4 – 5 mile hike through Standing Stone State Forest to enjoy the beauty and wildflower diversity of a rich, north-facing slope. We will make our return trip to Standing Stone State Park by walking through the upland forest and mesophytic coves above Mill Creek. Although the terrain and hike are moderate, participants should expect some narrow trails, uneven terrain, and be able to walk the entire distance. Wear sturdy shoes and bring snacks and water. *Meet at Park Recreational Hall for a shuttle trip to Standing Stone State Forest.*
- 9:00 A.M.** **Geological History:** In this presentation Mr. Robert Brewer, Biology Associate Professor at Cleveland State Community College, will provide use the opportunity to travel back millions of years to understand the landscape of today. We'll start with a short slide presentation and finish with a hike to nearby creek drains for hands on work in nature's laboratory. *Meet at the Park Recreational Hall*
- 10:00 A.M.** **Wildflower Photography Workshop with Jack Carman:** Would you like to take home your memories of Standing Stone's beautiful wildflowers? Join Jack Carman, renowned for his wildflower photography, for a photo field session. Jack Carman is the recipient of numerous photography awards and noted author of Wildflowers of Tennessee, Tennessee's first color photographic field guide. Jack will provide helpful hints on how to capture the beauty of wildflowers with photography, a must for wildflower devotees. *Meet at the Park Recreational Hall*

10:00 A.M.	Annual Wildflower Walk: Come view some of the most beautiful native wildflower species in Standing Stone State Park. Join Ray Jordan, Retired Professor of Biology at Tennessee Technological University, and a host of other wildflower enthusiast for the annual wildflower walk. This is a rugged hike to view these springtime gems. Bring your field guide. <i>Meet at Shelter #2 (Due to narrow trail, this session will be limited to 25 participants.)</i>
11:30 A.M.	Tennessee State Parks: Join Bureau of Parks and Conservation Deputy Commissioner Brock Hill for a slide show presentation on Tennessee State Parks. <i>Indoors at the Park Recreational Hall.</i>
12:30 P.M.	Lunch: For your convenience, the Friends of Standing Stone State Park and the park’s marble club, the Tennessee Knucklers, will be on site selling food, drinks, and snacks to benefit several youth marble players’ trip to the National Marbles Tournament in Wildwood, New Jersey in June.
1:00 P.M.	Tennessee Butterflies Presentation: Spring wildflowers are up, in bloom and attracting butterflies to nectar on them. Richard Connors will present a slide show sampling of the many varieties of butterflies to be found in Tennessee and at Standing Stone SP. A butterfly walk in the park will follow the slide show. <i>Meet at the Park Recreational Hall</i>
1:00 P.M.	Rambling for Wildflowers: Randy Hedgepath, Tennessee State Naturalist, will lead us on a fun and enlightening look at the park’s beautiful wildflowers. Remember, wild plants and flowers are protected in the Park, so please don’t pick the flowers! <i>Meet at the Park Recreational Hall and carpool to the Overton Lodge for a very easy roadside hike that is great for anyone that wants to participate.</i>
1:00 P.M.	Marble Games: Are you a “Mibster”? Have you ever “Plunked” your marble? To learn the answers to these questions and a whole lot more, meet Shawn Hughes, Park Interpretive Specialist for Standing Stone State Park, and knuckle down for an hour packed with snoogers, plunking, lagging, and just plain marble fun. Program will include adult and kids’ games and demonstrations. <i>Meet at Shelter #1</i>
2:00 P.M.	Birds of Prey: David Haggard, the Tennessee State Parks' West Tennessee Regional Interpretive Specialist, is making a return visit to provide visitors with the rare opportunity to see these majestic creatures from just a few feet away. David will showcase an American Bald Eagle and various birds of prey and discuss each bird’s unique abilities. <i>Indoors at the Park Recreational</i>
3:00 P.M.	BLUEBIRDS! Join John Bass, Park Ranger at Montgomery Bell State Park, and learn how you can help increase Tennessee’s Eastern Bluebird population. John will be sharing first-hand experience, tips, and tricks on how to attract this beautiful species to your yard. <i>Meet at Shelter #1</i>
3:00 P.M.	Wildflowers of Tennessee: Tennessee hosts a beautiful variety of wildflowers and Standing Stone is home to many of these lovely specimens. Join Jack Carman, renowned wildflower photographer, for a look at his collection of Tennessee’s most precious gems. Jack is the author of Wildflowers of Tennessee, Tennessee’s first full color photographic field guide. Within the pages of Wildflowers of Tennessee, more than 780 color photographs are included of our local favorites and many less known varieties. This workshop is a must for the wildflower enthusiast! Signed copies of Wildflowers of Tennessee will be on sale during this program. <i>Meet indoors at Park Recreational Hall</i>
3:00 P.M.	Scavenger Hunt: Come with me to the great outdoors! We're going on a scavenger hunt!! Join Ranger Stevie Plumlee for an all nature scavenger hunt. <i>Meet outside at Park Recreational Hall.</i>
4:00 P.M.	SNAKES ALIVE! Snakes of Tennessee: Be sure to come early for this workshop and uncover the secrets behind some of Tennessee’s most misunderstood creatures and find out what makes snakes super! Join Ray Jordan, Retired Professor of Herpetology from Tennessee Technological University, for a live, first-hand look at some of Tennessee’s most exceptional creatures. <i>Indoors at the Park Recreational Hall</i>
5:15 P.M	The CCC and Tennessee State Parks: Known as Roosevelt's Tree Army, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) is credited with having an enormous impact on many national and state parks. What was life like in a CCC camp? What did these young men do that was so important and enduring? Join Dr. Philip Smartt, Associate Professor of Natural Resource Management at the University of Tennessee at Martin, for a one of a kind program that looks at the history of the CCC and pays particular attention to the influence on Tennessee State Parks. The role of other related New Deal programs will also be discussed. <i>Meet indoors at the Park Recreational Hall.</i>
6:15 P.M.	Dinner: A small dinner, provided by Standing Stone State Park and the Friends of Standing Stone, will be available at the Park Tea Room. Meals are limited and on a first come first serve basis. Options include pulled pork, hotdogs, veggie burgers and sides of chips, vinegar slaw, baked beans, cookies, and tea or water. The meal will be provided at no charge, but the Friends of Standing Stone will be accepting donations.
7:30 P.M.	75th Anniversary of Tennessee State Park: In honor of the 75th Anniversary of Tennessee State Parks, State Naturalist Randy Hedgepath will reflect on the history of our special places with scenic and historic photos and stories. Our parks are still the best ideas we have had and the future additions will make them even better. This program will be a fun and entertaining way to learn more about Tennessee State Parks. <i>Meet indoors at the Park Recreational Hall.</i>

PARK GENERAL INFORMATION


How to Find Us: Take exit 288 off I-40 (Livingston/Sparta exit), Highway 111 North to Livingston, Highway 52 West to the entrance of the park. Highway 136 is the main park road.

About STANDING STONE STATE PARK: Standing Stone State Park and Forest covers nearly 11,000 acres on the Cumberland Plateau of north-central Tennessee. The quaint and rustic park is noted for its outstanding scenery, spring wildflowers, fossils and other natural diversity. The park takes its name from the Standing Stone, an eight-foot tall rock standing upright on a sandstone ledge, which was supposedly used as a boundary line between two separate Indian nations. When the rock fell, the Indians placed a portion of it upon an improvised monument to preserve it. The stone is still preserved in Monterey, Tennessee.

Standing Stone State Park also has many recreational opportunities including fishing and boating on the 69 acre park lake, a swimming pool, tennis, basketball, ping-pong, marbles, horseshoes, volleyball, and softball. There are ten miles of hiking trails winding through the wild woods of Standing Stone. Hikers will observe much diversity in plant and animal life from the trails as they trek across bridges. Trails are open year round. Over night camping is not allowed on any of the trails. Standing Stone offers a 36-site campground and many different cabins to rent.

For more information call the Park Interpretive Specialist, Travis Stover at 931-823-6347, 1-800-713-5157, or please visit our website:

<http://tennessee.gov/environment/parks/StandingStone/>

	Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Authorization No. 327158, February 2012.
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